(c) whether computer facilities are made available in the Passport offices in all the States particularly in Rajasthan; and

(d) if not, whether there is any proposal to this effect, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FAIJEIRO): (a) The average number of Applications for passports submitted per day in Jaipur Passport Office in Rajasthan during the period 1-4-92 to 28-4-92 is 503.

(b) The average number of passports issued per day during the same period is 743.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to install computers in seven passport offices during the current Financial year.

Applications for visiting Pakistan on Pilgrimage

1647. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Indians who visited Pakistan for pilgrimage during the period 1989—92, year-wise;

(b) what is the number of applications that are presently pending with the Government for visiting Hindu Shrine Katas Raj in Pakistan; and

(c) what steps are being taken to send these pilgrims at the earliest to the shrines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFATRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Under the Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines signed between India and Pakistan in 1974, approximately 8300 Indians visit Pakistan for pilgrimages every year.

(b) and (c) Government have received an application for a visit by 150 persons to Sri Katasraj. Action has been taken to process this application.

U.N. Secretary-General's offer for resolving Kashmir Issue

1648. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem .hat appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of 27th April, 1992 under the caption "Ghali ready to assist on Kashmir" wherein it has been stated that United Nations Sscretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali has offered to assist in any manner that might help resolve the Kashmir issue; and

Co) if so, Government reaction thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFATRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government does not seek any UN assistance in this regard.

Exploring Areas of Cooperation between SAARC Countries

1649. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to explore areas of cooperation between SAARC countries "and ASEAft countries;

(b) if so, the details therefor

(c) whether any proposals have been put up by India before the SAARC countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINTSTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) India has been of the view that proposals m regard to cooperation between SAARC and other regional and international organisations Should stem from SAARC itself.

At the Fifth SAARC summit held in November, 1990, the SAARC Secretariat was authorised to share information and exchange reports etc. with the Secretaries